

REMARKS

This communication is being filed in response to the Final Official Action dated February 10, 2006.

Applicants note that the amendment providing the correct priority claim has been entered into the record. Applicants further note that the Examiner has correctly stated the filing date of PCT/US97/21687 as November 21, 1997, despite the fact that, because of an inadvertent typographical error, Applicants' previous amendment recited the date as November 27, 1997. Applicants provide herewith an amendment to the specification providing the correct date. Of note, Applicants also provide a Supplemental Declaration and Power of Attorney which correctly identifies the PCT application as PCT/US97/21687, but which contains the obvious typographical error in the filing date. Applicants will provide a further declaration if required by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 2 are currently pending and have been allowed. Claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice to the prosecution of its subject matter in other applications.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 3 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lai et al. Hepatology 763-767 (1993), Assateerawatt et al. Asia Pacific Journal of Allergy and Immunology 11:83-91 (1993), and del Canho et al. Journal of Medical Virology 41:30-34 (1993).

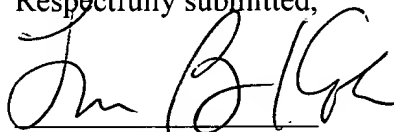
To advance prosecution of this application, claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice, thereby obviating the bases of these rejections, which should be removed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the rejections be removed.

Applicants believe that no additional fees are due. If however additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of fees or to credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 02-4377. Two copies of this paper are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa B. Kole', written over a horizontal line.

Lisa B. Kole

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